



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

Raised Bill No. 5437

LCO No. 1686

* _____HB05437GAE__030804_____*

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT AMENDING THE VOTER'S BILL OF RIGHTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 9-236b of the general statutes, as amended by
2 section 100 of public act 03-6 of the June 30 special session, is repealed
3 and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2004*):

4 (a) The Secretary of the State shall provide each municipality with
5 sufficient quantities of a poster size copy, at least eighteen by twenty-
6 four inches, of a Voter's Bill of Rights, which shall be posted
7 conspicuously at each polling place. The text of the Voter's Bill of
8 Rights shall be:

9 "VOTER'S BILL OF RIGHTS

10 Every registered voter in this state has the right to:

11 (1) Inspect a sample ballot before voting;

12 (2) Receive instructions concerning how to operate voting
13 equipment, on sample voting equipment before voting;

- 14 (3) Cast a ballot if the voter is in line when the polls are closing;
- 15 (4) Ask for and receive assistance in voting, including assistance in
16 languages other than English where required by federal or state law;
- 17 (5) Vote free from coercion or intimidation by election officials or
18 any other person; [and]
- 19 (6) Cast a ballot using voting equipment that accurately counts all
20 votes;
- 21 (7) Vote by provisional ballot if the individual registered to vote and
22 the individual's name is not on the voter list;
- 23 (8) Be informed of the process for restoring the individual's right to
24 vote if the individual was incarcerated for a felony conviction; and
- 25 (9) Vote independently and in privacy at a polling place, regardless
26 of physical disability.
- 27 If any of your rights have been violated, you have the right to file an
28 official complaint with the State Elections Enforcement Commission at
29 860-566-7106 or the United States Department of Justice at 1-866-733-
30 2463. In addition, before leaving the polling place you may notify the
31 moderator of the violation."
- 32 (b) In any municipality or voting district where federal or state law
33 requires ballots to be made available in a language or languages other
34 than English, the Voter's Bill of Rights shall also be made available in
35 such language or languages.
- 36 (c) Sample ballots shall be made available at all polling places, and
37 any voter shall be permitted to inspect a sample ballot before voting.
- 38 (d) Any voter standing in line at a polling place at the time when
39 polls are scheduled to close shall be permitted to vote.
- 40 (e) For use at elections for federal office, the Secretary of the State

41 shall prescribe and the municipal clerk shall provide for all polling
42 places in the municipality: (1) Instructions on how to cast a provisional
43 ballot, (2) instructions for mail-in registrants and first-time voters who
44 register to vote by mail on or after January 1, 2003, (3) general
45 information concerning voting rights under federal and Connecticut
46 laws, including information on the right of an individual to cast a
47 provisional ballot and instructions on how to contact the appropriate
48 officials if these rights are alleged to have been violated, and (4)
49 general information on federal and state laws concerning prohibitions
50 on acts of fraud and misrepresentation.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2004</i>

GAE *Joint Favorable*